

during execution of the series of the plurality of processes, the processes following the process in which there was an error among the series of the plurality of processes are performed with respect to portions of the document data other than a location in which there was the error, and by a process different from the process after the process in which there was the error." Applicants submit that these features are patentably distinct from the above-mentioned features of claims 7 and 13 of U.S. Patent No. 7,254,743. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23-28 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting.

Claims 1-7 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,101,243 to Kim ("Kim") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,253,079 to Nakatani et al. ("Nakatani") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,299,244 to Hertling et al. ("Hertling"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1 and 4 recite a "rule management unit that creates and manages rules relating to processing tasks for the predetermined series of processes on document data, the rules being dynamically created based upon capturing destinations, processing methods, and distribution destinations for the service processing system." Claim 16 recites "creating and managing rules relating to processing tasks for the predetermined series of processes on document data, the rules being dynamically created based upon capturing destinations, processing methods, and distribution destinations for the service processing method." Hertling does not disclose or suggest these features.

Using the rejection of claim 1 for illustrative purposes, Hertling discloses a system for dynamic sequencing of a requirements-based workflow. See Abstract of Hertling. Hertling discloses a registry that stores information related to services available to complete a received job request and a workflow controller capable of dynamically generating a workflow based on the received job request. See col. 1, lines 40-56 of Hertling. Hertling further discloses that

the workflow controller includes a rules database containing rules that specify requirements for constructing the workflow based on a nature of the job request, and the workflow controller dynamically generates the workflow by comparing the requirements of the rules to outputs of one or more prior nodes to generate subsequent nodes. See Figs. 10 and 12 and col. 1, lines 40-56 of Hertling.

Basically, Hertling is receiving a job request, comparing the request to a database of rules, and generating a workflow based upon the nature of the rules. Although Hertling discloses a rules database that modifies job requests, Hertling is not creating and managing rules based upon errors that occur in the overall workflow, nor does Hertling create and manage rules based upon capturing destinations, processing methods, and distribution destinations.

By contrast, claim 1 recites a "rule management unit that creates and manages rules related to processing tasks for the predetermined series of processes on document data, the rules being dynamically created based upon capturing destinations, processing methods, and distribution destinations for the service processing system." Hertling does not disclose or suggest this feature of claim 1, nor does it disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of claims 4 and 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4 and 16, and claims 2, 3, 5-7 and 17-19 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kim in view of Nakatani and further in view of Hertling and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,162 to Shimizu et al. ("Shimizu"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 20-22 depend from claims 1, 4 and 16 respectively. As explained above, neither Kim, Nakatani, nor Hertling disclose or suggest the features recited in claims 1, 4 and 16, nor does Shimizu supply the subject matter lacking in either Kim, Nakatani or Hertling.

Therefore, claims 20-22 are in condition for allowance based on their dependence from claims 1, 4 and 16, and for the separately patentable subject matter that they recite.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,885,469 to Tanimoto ("Tanimoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,279,117 to Takeda ("Takeda").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 23, 25 and 27 recite a service processing system, device, and method respectively each having a control that "performs control such that when there is an error with respect to processing of the document data during execution of the series of the plurality of processes ... the processing portion of the document data at the location, in which there was an error, is re-executed in the location in which the error occurred." Takeda does not disclose or suggest these features.

Using the rejection of claim 23 for illustrative purposes, Takeda discloses a method for supporting recovery processing from a failure of a storage device in a computer system. See Abstract of Takeda. Takeda discloses that in the execution of batch jobs on a computer, the jobs are inspected to determine if re-execution of a particular job is necessary. See col. 1, line 6 - col. 2, line 11 of Takeda. As a result of the inspection, jobs that should be executed and re-execution processing are extracted as direct re-execution jobs. See col. 2, lines 3-5 of Takeda.

As to a respective data-set which has been operated on by a job extracted as a direct re-execution job, an operation type of the operation by the job extracted as a direct re-execution job and an operation type of the operation by other jobs are inspected. See col. 2, lines 5-9 of Takeda. As a result of this inspection, a job that is necessary for execution of a direct re-execution job is executed as an indirect re-execution job. See col. 2, lines 9-11

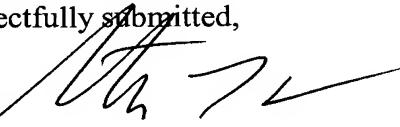
of Takeda. However, Takeda is re-executing entire jobs when an error occurs during job execution. Takeda is not reprocessing document data at an error point where the processing of document data occurred.

By contrast, claim 23 recites a service processing system having a control means that "performs control such that when there is an error with respect to processing of the document data during execution of the series of the plurality of processes ... the processing portion of the document data at the location, in which there was an error, is re-executed in the location in which the error occurred." Takeda does not disclose or suggest these features of claim 23, nor does Takeda disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of claims 25 and 27. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23, 25 and 27, and claims 24, 26 and 28 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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